

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for streaming event content to a system user, comprising:
an event server configured to manage said event content, said event
server providing a restricted access to said event content over an
electronic network, said event content including broadcast video
information transmitted on one or more broadcast channels and
video-on-demand information transmitted on one or more VOD
channels; and
a user device configured to communicate with said event server over
said electronic network by performing a wireless communications
procedure, said system user choosing a selected program
channel from said one or more broadcast channels and said one
or more VOD channels by utilizing said user device, said user
device responsively displaying selected program information from
said selected program channel for viewing by said system user.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein said event content includes restricted
information that is related to at least one of a specified event, an event
location, and one or more participants in said specified event, and wherein
said user device is implemented as at least one of a personal digital assistant
device, a cellular telephone device, a computer device, and a portable wireless
telecommunications device.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein said user device communicates with
said event server through one or more wireless base station transceivers and
one or more local area networks, said user device communicating with said
event server through at least one of a first direct path from said one or more
local area networks, an indirect path from said one or more local area
networks through an Internet network, and a second direct path from said
user device directly through said Internet network.

4. The system of claim 1 wherein said user device includes a processor, a display, a device memory, a sound module, one or more user interfaces, and input/output interfaces, said input/output interfaces including a wireless communications interface, a network interface, and a removable memory interface, said user interfaces including a program channel selector for choosing said selected program channel from said one or more broadcast channels and said one or more VOD channels.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein said device memory includes application software, an operating system, device content information, user data, a login/configuration module for providing an access code to said event server, a download module for updating said application software and other device software, a VOD module for accessing said video-on-demand information, an access rights module, a video player, a metadata module for managing ancillary data related to a particular event, a channel module, and an encryption module.

6. The system of claim 1 wherein said event server includes a processor, a display, a server memory, one or more user interfaces, and input/output interfaces, said input/output interfaces including at least one of a wireless communications interface and a network interface, said input/output interfaces including also including one or more broadcast channel interfaces and one or more VOD channel interfaces.

7. The system of claim 6 wherein said server memory includes application software, an operating system, server content information, a network manager, a login/configuration manager, an upload module for updating device application software and other device software, a storage manager, an access rights manager for managing said restricted access to said event content, a channel manager, a metadata manager for managing ancillary data related to a particular event, an encryption manager, and a VOD manager.

13. The system of claim 1 wherein said user device includes a user interface and an input/output interface, said system user utilizing said user interface and said input/output interface for communicating with said event server to thereby choose said selected program channel from said one or more broadcast channels and said one or more VOD channels.

14. The system of claim 1 wherein said user device connects to said event server by utilizing an access code, said system user then performing a selection procedure to choose from a plurality of viewing modes, said viewing modes including a broadcast mode for viewing said one or more broadcast channels, a VOD mode for viewing said one or more VOD channels, and a local mode for viewing local content that was previously downloaded from said event server and stored into a device memory of said user device.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein said system user selects said broadcast viewing mode, said user device responsively accessing and displaying a broadcast channel listing from said event server, said system user then choosing said selected program channel by utilizing a user interface of said user device.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein said user device connects to said selected program channel, accesses said selected program information, performs a decryption procedure to decode said selected program information, and displays said selected program information for viewing by said system user.

21. A method for streaming event content to a system user, comprising the steps of:

managing said event content with an event server, said event server

providing a restricted access to said event content over an

5 electronic network, said event content including broadcast video information transmitted on one or more broadcast channels and video-on-demand information transmitted on one or more VOD channels;

performing a wireless communications procedure with a user device to

10 communicate with said event server over said electronic network;

choosing a selected program channel from said one or more broadcast channels and said one or more VOD channels by utilizing said user device; and

displaying selected program information from said selected program

15 channel on said user device for viewing by said system user.

22. The method of claim 21 wherein said event content includes restricted information that is related to at least one of a specified event, an event

location, and one or more participants in said specified event, and wherein

20 said user device is implemented as at least one of a personal digital assistant device, a cellular telephone device, a computer device, and a portable wireless telecommunications device.

23. The method of claim 21 wherein said user device communicates with

25 said event server through one or more wireless base station transceivers and one or more local area networks, said user device communicating with said

event server through at least one of a first direct path from said one or more local area networks, an indirect path from said one or more local area networks through an Internet network, and a second direct path from said

30 user device directly through said Internet network.

25. The method of claim 24 wherein said device memory includes application software, an operating system, device content information, user data, a login/configuration module for providing an access code to said event server, a download module for updating said application software and other device software, a VOD module for accessing said video-on-demand information, an access rights module, a video player, a metadata module for managing ancillary data related to a particular event, a channel module, and an encryption module.

26. The method of claim 21 wherein said event server includes a processor, a display, a server memory, one or more user interfaces, and input/output interfaces, said input/output interfaces including at least one of a wireless communications interface and a network interface, said input/output interfaces including also including one or more broadcast channel interfaces and one or more VOD channel interfaces.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein said server memory includes application software, an operating system, server content information, a network manager, a login/configuration manager, an upload module for updating device application software and other device software, a storage manager, an access rights manager for managing said restricted access to said event content, a channel manager, a metadata manager for managing ancillary data related to a particular event, an encryption manager, and a VOD manager.

28. The method of claim 21 wherein said event server receives said event content from one or more video cameras, from an Internet network, and from one or more external program sources, said external program sources
5 including at least one of a satellite program source, a cable broadcasting program source, and a distributed computer network program source, said event server locally storing said event content into a server memory device.

29. The method of claim 21 wherein said one or more broadcast channels
10 includes one or more direct broadcast channels that each provide real-time streaming video information that is produced for a particular event by a video service provider.

30. The method of claim 21 wherein said one or more broadcast channels
15 includes one or more event broadcast channels that each provide streaming video information that is retrieved from a local server memory by said event server, said one or more event broadcast channels including at least one of an event highlights channel, an instant replay channel, an event commentator channel, one or more alternate camera-angle channels, and a
20 frequently-requested information channel.

31. The method of claim 21 wherein said one or more VOD channels are each allocated based upon a video-on-demand request from said system user, said one or more VOD channels including at least one of an event highlights
25 channel, an instant replay channel, an event commentator channel, one or more alternate camera-angle channels, and one or more metadata channels for accessing ancillary information related to a particular event.

32. The method of claim 21 wherein said event server dynamically creates
30 a new event broadcast channel when VOD requests for a particular VOD channel exceed a predetermined threshold value, said event server also notifying said user device regarding said new event broadcast channel.

33. The method of claim 21 wherein said user device includes a user interface and an input/output interface, said system user utilizing said user interface and said input/output interface for communicating with said event server to thereby choose said selected program channel from said one or more broadcast channels and said one or more VOD channels.

34. The method of claim 21 wherein said user device connects to said event server by utilizing an access code, said system user then performing a selection procedure to choose from a plurality of viewing modes, said viewing modes including a broadcast mode for viewing said one or more broadcast channels, a VOD mode for viewing said one or more VOD channels, and a local mode for viewing local content that was previously downloaded from said event server and stored into a device memory of said user device.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein said system user selects said broadcast viewing mode, said user device responsively accessing and displaying a broadcast channel listing from said event server, said system user then choosing said selected program channel by utilizing a user interface of said user device.

36. The method of claim 35 wherein said user device connects to said selected program channel, accesses said selected program information, performs a decryption procedure to decode said selected program information, and displays said selected program information for viewing by said system user.

37. The method of claim 34 wherein said system user selects said VOD viewing mode, said system user then utilizing a user interface of said user device to create a VOD request for accessing specific information from said video-on-demand information, said user device transmitting said VOD request to said event server, said event server responsively servicing said VOD request by retrieving said specific information from said video-on-demand information and providing said specific information to said user device on a corresponding one of said one or more VOD channels.

38. The method of claim 37 wherein said user device locally stores said specific information from said event server into said device memory for subsequent viewing in said local mode.

39. The method of claim 37 wherein said user device performs a decryption procedure to decode said specific information from said video-on-demand information, and displays said specific information from said video-on-demand information for viewing by said system user.

40. The method of claim 34 wherein said system user selects said local mode, said user device responsively accessing said local content, performing a decryption procedure to decode said local content, and displaying said local content for viewing by said system user.

41. A computer-readable medium comprising program instructions for streaming event content to a system user by performing the steps of:

managing said event content with an event server, said event server providing a restricted access to said event content over an electronic network, said event content including broadcast video information transmitted on one or more broadcast channels and video-on-demand information transmitted on one or more VOD channels;

performing a wireless communications procedure with a user device to communicate with said event server over said electronic network; choosing a selected program channel from said one or more broadcast channels and said one or more VOD channels by utilizing said user device; and

displaying selected program information from said selected program channel on said user device for viewing by said system user.

42. A system for streaming event content to a system user, comprising:

means for managing said event content, said means for managing providing a restricted access to said event content over an electronic network, said event content including broadcast video information transmitted on one or more broadcast channels and video-on-demand information transmitted on one or more VOD channels; and

means for performing a wireless communications procedure to communicate with said means for managing over said electronic network;

means for choosing a selected program channel from said one or more broadcast channels and said one or more VOD channels; and

means for displaying selected program information from said selected program channel for viewing by said system user.

43. A system for streaming event content to a system user, comprising:
an event server configured to manage said event content, said event
server providing a restricted access to said event content over an
electronic network, said event content including at least one of
broadcast video information transmitted on one or more
broadcast channels and video-on-demand information
transmitted on one or more VOD channels; and
a user device configured to communicate with said event server over
said electronic network by performing a wireless communications
procedure, said system user choosing a selected program
channel from said one or more broadcast channels and said one
or more VOD channels.